

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A telecommunications system and method is disclosed for load sharing within a CDMA2000 network. The queue size of a sector (or cell) is compared with a predefined threshold. If the queue size exceeds the predefined threshold, one or more mobile terminals having their Data Rate Control (DRC) pointed towards that sector are selected to discontinue using that sector. The network transmits a message to the selected mobile terminals informing the selected mobile terminals that their DRC is no longer valid. In response, the selected mobile terminals stop pointing their DRC towards that sector, which results in an interruption of the selected mobile terminal's data sessions. To continue their data sessions, each of the selected mobile terminals may initiate a "virtual" handoff to another sector.